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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

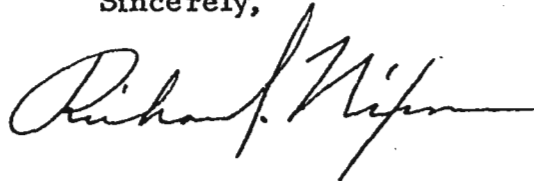
October 29, 1971

Dear General Gowon:

Thank you for your kind letter of September 18 explaining the urgent concerns in Nigeria and Africa which rule out for the present your undertaking a journey to the United States. I have looked forward to our meeting and genuinely regret its postponement. At the same time, however, I am encouraged by the ongoing success of your Government's policies at home and the broadening scope of your personal involvement in decisions affecting peace and prosperity in Africa. In these endeavors, you have my continuing support and my warmest wishes for success.

I want to assure you that my invitation remains open, and I hope that, as our respective commitments for next year become clearer, it will be possible to find a mutually convenient time for our meeting.

Sincerely,



His Excellency
General Yakubu Gowon
Head of State and Commander-in-Chief
of the Armed Forces
Lagos.

Dispatched @ 1845 29 Oct via State Sec.
Cys to Wright, RM Woods, HAK App'l & Hak Chron. rj